



California Field Crop Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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MARCH 1, 2008 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

California's March intentions estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2,500 California farmers. The survey was conducted March 1-15, but referred to farmers' intentions on **March 1**. Therefore, the impact of weather or market conditions since that date is not reflected in this report.

COTTON: On March 1, **California** farmers were intending to plant 100 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2008. If realized, this would 49 percent below the acreage seeded in 2007. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 180 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2008, 31 percent below the 260 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 2008 are expected to total 9.39 million acres, down 13 percent from last year.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 670 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, an increase of 3 percent from last year and an all-time record high. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 260 thousand acres of oats, 24 percent more than in 2007. **U.S.** producers planned to seed 3.42 million, down 9 percent from last year's planted area.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 600 thousand acres, 20 percent above the previous year. Another 170 thousand acres has been seeded to Durum wheat, double the amount planted in 2007. At the **U.S.** level, 2008's all wheat planted area is expected to total 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 46.8 million acres, 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from the previous year.

RICE: **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 549 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 3 percent more than the 534 thousand acres seeded in 2007. The expressed intentions were to seed 475 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 9,000 thousand to long grain and 65.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intended to seed 2.77 million acres, up 9,000 acres from 2007.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intended to plant 130 thousand acres to barley, 53 percent above previous year. **U.S.** growers intended to seed 4.15 million acres for 2008, up 3 percent from last year.

SORGHUM: On March 1, **California** farmers were expected to plant 38.0 thousand acres to sorghum, 12 percent above the previous year. **U.S.** sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes in 2008 is estimated at 7.42 million acres, down 4 percent from 2007.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers had planted or intended to plant 31.6 thousand acres of sugar beets, as of March 1, down 21 percent from the 2007 crop year. **Nationally**, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2008 crop year is expected to total 1.13 million acres, 11 percent lower than the 2007 planted acreage.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 46.0 thousand acres in **California**, 22 percent below last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.40 million acres of dry edible beans in 2008, down 8 percent from last year.

ALL HAY: **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.62 million acres as of March 1, 1 percent above the 1.61 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres of hay in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007.

SWEET POTATOES: **California** growers intend to plant 14.5 thousand acres in 2008, up 7 percent from 2007. **U.S.** growers intend to plant 104 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, 3 percent above last year.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	2006	2007	Indicated 2008	2008 2007
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat, Winter 1/				
California	450.0	500.0	600.0	120
U.S.	40,575.0	44,987.0	46,840.0	104
Wheat, Durum 1/				
California	70.0	85.0	170.0	200
U.S.	1,870.0	2,149.0	2,630.0	122
Oats 1/				
California	270.0	210.0	260.0	124
U.S.	4,168.0	3,760.0	3,420.0	91
Sorghum				
California	32.0	34.0	38.0	112
U.S.	6,522.0	7,718.0	7,415.0	96
Barley 1/				
California	90.0	85.0	130.0	153
U.S.	3,452.0	4,020.0	4,147.0	103
Corn, All				
California	520.0	650.0	670.0	103
U.S.	78,327.0	93,600.0	86,014.0	92
Rice				
California:				
All	526.0	534.0	549.0	103
Long	6.0	9.0	9.0	100
Medium	460.0	460.0	475.0	103
Short 2/	60.0	65.0	65.0	100
U.S.:				
All	2,838.0	2,761.0	2,770.0	100
Long	2,200.0	2,063.0	2,070.0	100
Medium	577.0	632.0	634.0	100
Short	61.0	66.0	66.0	100
Cotton, Upland				
California	285.0	195.0	100.0	51
U.S.	14,948.0	10,538.0	9,186.0	87
Cotton, Amer.-Pima				
California	275.0	260.0	180.0	69
U.S.	326.0	292.3	203.6	70
Beans, Dry Edible 3/				
California	67.0	59.0	46.0	78
U.S.	1,629.8	1,526.9	1,398.5	92
Sugar Beets				
California 4/	43.3	40.0	31.6	79
U.S. 5/	1,366.2	1,269.8	1,131.8	89
Hay, All 6/				
California	1,700.0	1,610.0	1,620.0	101
U.S.	60,927.0	61,625.0	60,583.0	98
Sweet Potatoes				
California	12.2	13.5	14.5	107
U.S.	95.2	100.6	103.8	103

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Includes sweet rice.

3/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

4/ Relates to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central California and to year of planting for overwintered beets in central and southern California.

5/ Relates to year of intended harvest in all states, except California.

6/ Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES – MARCH 2008

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for dry edible beans, all potatoes, and winter potatoes. Fall potatoes, all hay, and alfalfa hay were below the previous month. Other hay prices remained the same as the previous month. A mid-month price for wheat was not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. There was insufficient data to establish a mid-March price for oats and upland cotton lint. Prices were above a year earlier for all potatoes, fall potatoes and all types of hay.

U.S. MARCH PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASED THREE POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased three points (2.0 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, corn, lettuce, and eggs and lower prices for milk, snap beans, strawberries, and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketing of strawberries, soybeans, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 17 points (13 percent) from March 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 149, increased 3 points (2.1 percent) from last month and increased 15 points (11 percent) from March 2007.

The March All Crops Index is 171, up 4.9 percent from February and 20 percent above March 2007. Index increases for food grains, commercial vegetables, feed grains & hay, fruits & nuts more than offset the index decrease for cotton.

The March Food Grains Index, at 332, is 15 percent above the previous month and 114 percent above a year ago. The March all wheat price, at \$390.00 per ton, is up \$57.33 from February and \$231.67 above March 2007.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index is 206, up 6.2 percent from last month and 36 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$172.50 per ton, is up \$10.71 from last month and \$50.00 above March 2007. The all hay price, at \$139.00 per ton, is up \$6.00 from February and up \$20.00 from last March. Grain sorghum, at \$8.72 per cwt., is 37 cents above February and \$2.24 above March last year.

The March Cotton Index, at 101, is down 1.0 percent from February but 31 percent above last year. The March price, at 61.4 cents per pound, is down 0.5 cent from the previous month, but 15.0 cents above last March.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 138, is up 3.0 percent from last month and 1.5 percent above March 2007. The all potato price, at \$7.82 per cwt., is up 31 cents from February, but down 11 cents from last March. The all dry bean price, at \$32.20 per cwt., is unchanged from the previous month, but \$6.50 above March 2007.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

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Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2007	February 2008	15-Mar-2008	March 2007	February 2008	15-Mar-2008
		Dollars					
Corn 2/	Tons	---	---	---	122.50	161.79	172.50
Wheat 2/	Tons	148.00	3/	3/	158.33	332.67	390.00
Oats 2/	Tons	4/	4/	4/	150.00	200.00	211.25
Barley 2/	Tons	4/	---	---	129.58	182.92	197.92
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	6.48	8.35	8.72
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	10.00	12.50	12.90
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	56.20	47.30	49.30	25.70	32.20	32.20
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	10.60	10.40	10.70	7.93	7.51	7.82
Winter	Cwt.	25.70	16.30	17.10	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	7.05	8.60	8.15	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	143.00	191.00	181.00	119.00	133.00	139.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	150.00	208.00	195.00	121.00	138.00	143.00
Other Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	104.00	131.00	131.00	115.00	122.00	128.00
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lbs	0.593	0.693	4/	0.464	0.619	0.614
Cottonseed	Tons	---	3/	---	---	162.00	---

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure of operations.

4/ Insufficient data to establish a price.

5/ Monthly average.

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	843	931 1/	953	133	147 1/	150
All Crops	700	804 1/	842	142	163 1/	171
Food Grains	492	919 1/	1,054	155	289 1/	332
Feed Grains and Hay	540	693 1/	737	151	194 1/	206
Cotton	392	523 1/	519	77	102 1/	101
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	689	680 1/	701	136	134 1/	138
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	2,144	2,302	2,341	159	173	176
Parity Ratio 3/	40	40 1/	41	84	85 1/	85

1/ Revised.

2/ All production indexes as of 15th of month.

3/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

GRAIN STOCKS

On March 1, 2008, **California** wheat stocks in all positions totaled 186 thousand tons, 21 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm corn stocks were 28 percent above March 2007. Barley off-farm stocks were 41 percent below March 2007. Oats totaled 5.17 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. **U.S.** wheat stocks in all positions were 17 percent below a year earlier as of March 1. Oat stocks were up 11 percent, and barley stocks were down 10 percent. U.S. corn stocks in all positions totaled 192 million tons, and sorghum grain stocks totaled 5.20 million tons.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	Mar. 1, 2007	Dec. 1, 2007 1/	Mar. 1, 2008
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	9,000	30,000	9,000
Off-Farm 2/	226,140	307,500	177,300
Total	235,140	337,500	186,300
U.S. Total	25,701,840	33,958,140	21,289,200
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	22,080	17,808	13,104
U.S. Total	2,809,584	3,258,672	2,515,440
OATS			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	5,472	7,152	5,168
U.S. Total	1,136,928	1,510,896	1,264,608
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	237,804	377,468	303,464
U.S. Total	169,911,000	287,786,380	192,049,060
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/ 4/	2,296	---	---
U.S. Total	3,982,216	8,155,000	5,195,988

1/ Revised.

2/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

3/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks are included in U.S. totals.

4/ California off-farm stocks and total stocks for March 2008 and December 2007 are included in United States totals.

OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in **California** mills and warehouses on March 1, 2008 totaled 2.01 million cwt. This was 20 percent above the 1.67 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 83 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 5.60 million cwt., up 23 percent from a year ago.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 27.5 million cwt. on March 1, 2008. This was 14 percent above the 24.1 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. **Nationally**, rough rice in all positions on March 1 totaled 104 million cwt., down less than 1 percent from the total on March 1, 2007.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1		Mar. 1	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	24,129	27,523	104,160	104,122
Long Grain	1/	1/	76,127	68,783
Medium Grain	21,699	24,255	25,857	32,584
Short Grain	1/	1/	2,176	2,755
MILLED RICE TOTAL	1,671	2,012	4,560	5,604
Whole Kernels Total	754	1,664	3,344	4,350
Long Grain	1/	1/	2,454	2,546
Medium Grain	653	1,587	792	1,735
Short Grain	1/	1/	98	69
Broken Kernels Total	917	348	1,216	1,254
Second Heads	1/	1/	562	852
Screenings	1/	1/	1/	163
Brewers	1/	1/	1/	239

1/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	1,000 Cwt.		
December 1	30,395	35,672	38,189
March 1	21,195	24,129	27,523
August 1	7,924	7,407	---
October 1 a/	3,676	2,995	---

a/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.

U. S. APRIL POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

California fall potato stocks were estimated at 600 thousand cwt. as of April 1, 2008, 25 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 14 percent of the 2007 fall production, compared to 21 percent of the previous year.

The 13 major potato States held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2008, up 8 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above April 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.15 million cwt on April 1, 2008, down 18 percent from last year. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to April 1 was at 270 million cwt, 1 percent above last year and up 4 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt, was down 3 percent from the same period in 2007 but up 7 percent from 2006.

Processors have used 144 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from last year's season-to-date usage but up 9 percent from 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago and Maine's total processing was 5 percent below 2007. Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was 3 percent higher than last season. Dehydrating usage accounted for 29.3 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year but 10 percent above the same period in 2006.

Western States held 99.2 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 14 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above 2006. Idaho's potato stocks were up 10 percent from last year; Washington's potato stocks were 40 percent above last year; and Oregon's stocks increased 14 percent from April 1, 2007. California's potato stocks decreased 25 percent from 2007, while Colorado and Montana's stocks were both down 17 percent from a year ago.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS 1/

State	Crop of 2006			Crop of 2007		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of
		Apr. 1, 2007	Production		Apr. 1, 2008	Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	3,870	800	21	4,223	600	14
Colorado	22,686	9,000	40	20,981	7,500	36
Idaho	128,915	46,500	36	131,650	51,000	39
Maine	17,980	7,700	43	16,530	6,200	38
Michigan	14,190	1,800	13	14,700	2,900	20
Minnesota	20,400	6,100	30	20,680	6,400	31
Montana	3,518	2,300	65	3,696	1,900	51
Nebraska	8,730	2,400	27	8,051	2,100	26
New York	5,700	500	9	5,216	300	6
North Dakota	25,480	7,900	31	23,660	6,000	25
Oregon	18,533	7,600	41	20,238	8,700	43
Washington	89,900	21,000	23	102,300	29,500	29
Wisconsin	29,370	7,400	25	28,160	7,000	25
13-State Total	389,272	121,000	31	400,085	130,100	33
Klamath Basin 2/	---	1,400	---	---	1,150	---

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2007 totaled 26.4 million cwt.

2/ Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

California's 2008 winter potato production forecast at 2.64 million cwt., 7 percent above last year. Area harvested was 11.0 thousand acres, down 4 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 240 cwt. per acre is 25 cwt. above 2007. Demand for winter potatoes remained strong as harvest wound down. Spring production, at 5.52 million cwt., is down 10 percent from last year. Growers reported favorable growing conditions and expect to begin harvest by late April. Although yields have increased, harvested acres are expected to be 14 percent below last year. California's summer potato planted and harvested acreage for the 2007 crop year is estimated at 7.00 thousand acres.

Nationally, the winter potato production for 2008 is forecast at 2.64 million cwt., 4 percent below the January forecast, but 7 percent above last year. Florida winter potatoes were combined with their spring potatoes for the 2007 crop. Spring production in 2008 is forecast at 19.9 million cwt., down 4 percent from 2007. Area for harvest is forecast at 67.2 thousand acres, down 5 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 297 cwt. per acre, 3 cwt. above 2007. The final production estimate for the 2007 U.S. summer potato crop is 17.0 million cwt., up 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January Crop Production 2007 Summary, but down 6 percent from the 2006 crop. Harvested area covered 51.3 thousand acres, up 2 percent from the 2007 preliminary estimate, but down 5 percent from 2006. The average yield of 332 cwt. per acre is down 3 cwt. from the 2007 preliminary estimate and 5 cwt. below the 2006 crop.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
WINTER								
California	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.0	215	240	2,473	2,640
Florida	1/	----	1/	----	1/	----	1/	----
U.S. Total	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.0	215	240	2,473	2,640
SPRING								
Arizona	4.0	3.5	4.0	3.5	280	300	1,120	1,050
California	15.5	13.3	15.5	13.3	395	415	6,123	5,520
Florida 1/	27.8	28.5	27.2	27.9	287	290	7,807	8,091
Hastings	16.5	17.3	16.2	17.0	285	290	4,617	4,930
Other	11.3	11.2	11.0	10.9	290	290	3,190	3,161
North Carolina	16.0	15.0	14.5	14.0	186	200	2,700	2,800
Texas	9.7	8.9	9.2	8.5	320	290	2,944	2,465
U.S. Total	73.0	69.2	70.4	67.2	294	297	20,694	19,926
SUMMER 2/								
California	7.0	----	7.0	----	360	----	2,520	----
Colorado	3.0	----	2.8	----	350	----	980	----
Texas	11.2	----	9.8	----	395	----	3,871	----
U.S. Total	53.7	----	51.3	----	332	----	17,032	----

1/ Winter potatoes were combined with spring potatoes in 2007.

2/ Revised data for 2007.

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